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Release week of June 7.

PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Season Retards Agriculture

Agricultural prospects have been seriously retarded, says the department, as a result of the delayed season over much of the corn and cotton territory. Farm operations are under a handicap that will be felt well into the summer. The general trend of prices of farm products has been downward since the beginning of the year, the level of prices expressed as an index figure now standing at 140, the five years preceding the war being used as a base of 100.

Chestnut Blight Disease Surveyed

Surveys just completed by the department show that the chestnut blight is spreading rapidly over the 33 million acres of chestnut growth in the Southern Appalachians. In a comparatively few years these trees will be heavily infected or dead. Unless owners plan for the utilization or sale of the chestnut timber killed by the blight they will have to face severe losses, says the department.

Commercial Varieties of Alfalfa

Before buying alfalfa seed there are three points upon which the purchaser should have information, says the department. They are the name of the variety, the section of the country in which it was grown, and the quality of the seed with regard to both germination and purity. The alfalfas of this country vary in their adaptation to climatic conditions and length of day. As an aid to the prospective grower of alfalfa in determining the variety to grow, the department has prepared a bulletin, which discusses in detail the origin, adaptability, and establishment, of five distinct groups and their sub-divisions.

Better Logs from Thick Stands

The quality of timber is very largely determined by how close together the trees are, says the department. When trees are crowded so that sunlight does not reach the lower branches these soon die, become brittle, and then fall off. Trees growing under such conditions produce logs of good length, with gradually tapering diameter, and have relatively few knots. The trees in the farm woods should be so crowded that the crown or top of each tree may be in contact with that of its neighbor. A crowded stand of trees produces not only a larger number but also a greater proportion of high quality saw logs than an uncrowded stand of an equal area.

Wash Away Ivy Poison

Thorough washing soon after exposure to poison ivy reduces the danger of injury. The poison usually requires some time to penetrate into the tender layers of the skin, and until such penetration has taken place much or all of it can be removed. Make a thick lather and wash several times, with thorough rinsing and frequent changes of hot water, using ordinary alkaline kitchen soap. Running water is preferable for this purpose.

Cotton Cooperatives Have Steady Growth

About 9 per cent of the 1925 cotton crop was handled by farmers' cooperative marketing associations. The total business of 16 of the larger associations for the crop season will be in the neighborhood of one and one-half million bales. This was the largest percentage of the total crop ever handled cooperatively. The previous record was set in the 1923 crop marketing season when 8.9 per cent of the cotton ginned was marketed through 14 farmers' cooperative association.

Common Cabbage Worm Controlled by Use of Lead Arsenate

The common cabbage worm, the most destructive insect enemy of cabbage and related crops, is best controlled by spraying with lead arsenate or calcium arsenate. This pest is a velvety green caterpillar about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, and is the larva of a white butterfly well known to most farmers. Early in the season the worm attacks the cabbage, riddling the outer leaves as they form, frequently feeding within the immature heads, which are rendered unfit for food. Sometimes it cuts out the "bud" from the young plant, thus preventing development of the head. Arsenic poisons may be applied in dust form or as a spray. A Farmers' Bulletin, containing a description of the common cabbage worm together with information relative to control measures, necessary materials and equipment, may be obtained free, while the supply lasts, from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Potato Leafhopper Controlled by Bordeaux Mixture

The potato leafhopper, a pale-green insect about one-eighth of an inch long, a serious enemy of potatoes, beans, sugar beets, hemp, apples, and raspberries, may be controlled by the use of Bordeaux mixture, according to the Department. The pest occurs in practically every State of the Union, but has caused heaviest losses in the North Central and Northeastern States. The effectiveness of Bordeaux mixture against hopperburn varies with variety of potatoes to which applied, since some varieties are more susceptible to hopperburn than other. Bordeaux mixture of the 4-4-50 formula is generally employed for this purpose. The mixture should be thoroughly applied to the underside of the leaves. Farmers' Bulletin, "The Potato Leafhopper and How to Control It," contains much information relative to this insect, the nature of its injury to vegetable crops, and the proper measures for its control. A copy of the publication may be obtained free, as long as the supply lasts, upon application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Care and Management of Dairy Cows Discussed in New Bulletin

"The best way for a man of moderate means to establish a high producing herd of dairy cattle is to start with a small number of cows and use good purebred bulls," says the Department in a new bulletin on "Care and Management of Dairy Cows." In experiments conducted by the department, cows that freshened in the fall months ranked highest in average yearly production of milk and butterfat, in cost of feed, and in income over cost of feed. The importance of keeping records on a dairy farm is also stressed in the new bulletin. Such records, by showing feed consumed and production of milk and butterfat, make it possible to feed intelligently and eliminate inferior animals. The bulletin also contains much information relative to breeding, feeding, diseases, common ailments of cows and their treatment, types of dairy buildings, and sanitation. A copy of the publication can be obtained free as long as the supply lasts by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Strychnine Baits Do Not Harm Game Birds

The assumption that game birds may be killed by grain poisoned with strychnine and distributed to kill rodent pests has been found by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture to be without foundation. Feeding tests have shown conclusively that the gallinaceous birds as a group, including quail, the prairie hen, sharp-tailed grouse, and sage grouse, possess a certain immunity from strychnine poisoning.

Purebred Bulls Travel at Half Rate

Common carriers of the Southeastern Tariff Association have granted a half-rate concession on the transportation of purebred bulls to be used for breeding purposes when their value does not exceed \$150. This information received by the Department from the secretary of the Southern Cattlemen's Association is expected to aid in developing the cattle industry in the southeast portion of the country. The increased recognition which the breeding of good livestock is receiving from commercial sources is hastening progress in stock improvement.

Alfalfa's Beneficial Effect on Soil

Alfalfa in a rotation generally has a more beneficial effect than manure on a following crop of potatoes or oats, according to experimental results obtained over a period of 11 years testing at the Huntley experiment station in the Yellowstone Valley of Montana. The increase in yield of potatoes due to manuring was 34.1 bushels per acre, while that in favor of alfalfa was 43.5 bushels for the 11-year period. The average increase in yield of oats due to alfalfa in the rotation was 12.2 bushels, as compared with an increase of 4.4 bushels effected by manuring. A copy of the circular pertaining to this experiment may be secured, as long as the supply lasts, by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Release week of June 14.

PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.European Markets for American Poultry and Eggs

A study of the poultry and egg industry in Europe has been completed recently by the Department in anticipation of the possible need within a few years for developing foreign markets for American poultry products. Production of poultry and eggs in the United States has been progressing at an astonishing rate, both as compared with other farm animals and as compared with the population. Since 1880 our population has slightly more than doubled, sheep have declined in number, hogs have remained about constant, milk cows have increased about 25 per cent, but poultry and egg production is more than four times that of 1880. In view of the rapid increase in production of poultry products in this country, the investigators believe, it is not difficult to see that within a few years the United States will be producing more eggs and poultry than can be consumed readily within its borders. When our production finally exceeds domestic demand it will be necessary to look with increased attention to foreign markets as an outlet for the surplus. We are already exporting considerable quantities of both poultry and eggs, and as the European financial conditions continue to improve the demand for our products should increase. Detailed results of the survey have been published in Department Bulletin "The Poultry and Egg Industry in Europe," copies of which may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Rubber Trees in Amazon Valley

Conditions in the Amazon Valley are suitable for the growing of enough rubber to supply the world, provided proper measures are taken to protect the crop against diseases, says James R. Weir, pathologist of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The general average of prices of farm products decreased slightly during May, the Department index of farm prices being placed at 139 compared with 140 in April and March, and 146 for May a year ago. The five-year period 1909-14 is used as a base of 100.

Cotton Planter Places Seed at Uniform Depth

An attachment for use on cotton planters to insure uniform depth of planting and proper packing of the soil around the seed has been perfected by the Department. Many cotton-planting machines in the San Joaquin Valley, California, were equipped with these attachments during the planting season of 1925, and without a single exception the growers were enthusiastic over the results. Drawings and specifications for the planter attachment are shown in a circular just issued. They are sufficient to enable any blacksmith to properly equip a standard cotton or corn planter with the device. Application has been made for the issuance of a public-service patent covering the attachment, thus making it available to all without payment of royalties necessary with privately owned patents. The use of this device should aid the cotton growers of the irrigated valleys of the Southwest to overcome some of the difficulty experienced every year in securing satisfactory stands of cotton. Sometimes poor stands are the result of immature seed, adverse or unfavorable seasonal conditions, or, are due to several other unforeseen factors, but too often they are due to unsatisfactory planting machines. A copy of the publication on this subject may be secured as long as the supply lasts by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Official Barley Grades Established

The Secretary of Agriculture has promulgated official grain standards of the United States for barley. These standards, after the expiration of the ninety days required by the grain standards act, will become officially effective on August 24, 1926. Under the standards, barley is divided into four classes based not only on variety, but the section of the country in which grown. Conditions in the producing sections west of the Great Plains area are somewhat different from those obtaining in the remainder of the country and the standards as promulgated are designed to care for this situation. One of the outstanding features reflected by this condition is indicated in the fact that barley produced on the west coast will be graded on a dockage basis whereas barley produced east of the Rocky Mountains will be inspected under a system of grading which does not provide for dockage. The standards have been promulgated in response to numerous requests that government standards be established in order that barley may be put on the same basis as corn, wheat, oats, rye, and other grains.

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In districts where they abound there is no more irritating insect pest than the "chigger," which attaches itself to one's skin and sucks the blood, leaving a swollen and sore spot which causes annoyance for days. People who have found that when working in their gardens, walking in the woods, or trying to picnic outdoors they were often attacked by these tiny insects, will be glad to know that the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture has assigned one of its scientific staff to study the life history of chiggers and undertake control experiments in the field.

Red Clover Seed From Italy Must Be Stained Red

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced his decision that the evidence secured by the department, together with that presented at the public hearing May 27, clearly establishes the fact that red clover seed grown in Italy is generally unadapted for agricultural use in the United States. The order was signed June 3, and 90 days from this date at least 10 per cent of the seed in each bag or other container of red clover seed grown in Italy imported into the United States must be stained a red color as provided by the recent amendment to the Seed Importation Act.

Hogs in Good Position; Crop Prospects Still Uncertain

An exceedingly strong market position for hogs for the next five months is the outstanding factor in the agricultural situation as seen by the Department of Agriculture in its June report on farm conditions. The outlook for the principal crops is still uncertain due to the backward season. "Wheat harvest will be under way within the month in the Southwest and in the Pacific Northwest," says the department, "the crop being unusually advanced in the latter territory. Forecasts based upon conditions last month suggest a winter wheat crop this year of 549,000,000 bushels or about 150,000,000 more than last year. The indicated increase is in hard winter wheat. Notwithstanding that reserves will be low when the new crop comes to market, such increase in our crop over last year would seem likely to put our wheat prices on substantially an export basis. "The hog market last month reached the highest point in six years. The price advance was the greatest during any May in 25 years, except for certain wartime inflation years. With the supply of hogs in sight for slaughter no greater than last year, with pork products in storage 27 per cent or equivalent to 1,500,000 hogs less than last year, hogs are in exceedingly strong market position for the next five months. The hog-corn price ratio is near the highest on record. It is distinctly time now for hog producers to bear in mind the violent downswing in prices that has been caused, in times past, by over-expansion under similar price relationships." Storage stocks of agricultural products are always rather significant at this time of year in relation to the new season's production, the department points out. Wheat reserves are moderate; cotton stocks are probably the heaviest since 1921; butter stocks in cold storage on May 1 were four times last year's quantity, but eggs were 1,000,000 cases less than last year.

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Farm News Digest

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

United States Department of Agriculture
PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradicated from the United States.

Effective June 10 all domestic quarantine regulations previously imposed by the United States Department of Agriculture because of foot-and-mouth disease in livestock are revoked. This announcement applies particularly to California in which certain areas have been kept under supervision as a precautionary measure. June 10 of this year marks the elapse of exactly a year since the last infection of disease in California was found and destroyed. In the meantime no recurrence of such infection appeared there. The State of Texas, where foot-and-mouth disease broke out in 1924 and reappeared in 1925, was officially freed from all quarantine April 1, 1926. The situation in California, according to veterinary officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry, was more dangerous owing to the rough and inaccessible character of the land, infection among wild deer, and other complex conditions. There still remain in effect the usual restrictions that protect the United States from foot-and-mouth disease and other livestock plagues in foreign countries. Such regulations have been made extremely broad and comprehensive and are rigidly enforced.

British Prohibit Imports of Fresh Meat from Continent.

As a result of the discovery of foot-and-mouth disease in hog carcasses from The Netherlands intended for consumption in Great Britain, the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has prohibited the landing in Great Britain of all carcasses from continental European countries. This prohibition has caused a sharp increase in pork and veal prices. The order covers carcasses of cattle and sheep as well as hogs, and also fresh and refrigerated meat of such animals, but does not cover fully cured bacon and ham or rendered fat, cooked or preserved meat or meat essences, or hides and skins which have been dry or wet salted. Imports from Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are not affected by the order. Should the quarantine continue any length of time, it will be of far reaching significance for the meat trade of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, all Northern and Western Europe and the United States. This is the first time that the British Government has prohibited the importation of any kind of fresh meat on account of foot-and-mouth disease although for several years there has been a strict quarantine against live animals from countries in which the disease was known to exist.

Issue Regulations for Grading Meats and Meat Products.

Reules and regulations covering the grading of meats and meat food products also have been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, effective July 1. Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore; Washington, Norfolk, Chicago, and San Francisco are designated as important central markets where the service is available. This service is optional with the applicant and a nominal fee will be charged to those receiving the service. Copies of the regulations may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Means of Stimulating Sale of Peanuts Suggested in New Government Bulletin.

The sale of peanuts could in all probability be greatly stimulated by placing on the market raw peanuts, both shelled and unshelled, packed in attractively lithographed cartons weighing 1, 2, and 5 pounds, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This would meet the demand of housewives who want peanuts in greater quantities and at lower prices than they can be bough from street venders or small stores. Printed suggestions for preparing the peanuts in the home could be included in each package. A copy of Department Bulletin 1401-D, "Marketing Peanuts," may be obtained free, while the supply lasts, from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Mexico Active in Suppressing Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

Mexican authorities are active in suppressing the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock in the southern part of that country. Slaughtering of all infected and exposed stock in Yucatan is in progress. Near Yucatan, in northern Campeche and also in southern Tabasco the infected herds have been slaughtered. A number of infected hefds in northern Tabasco, however, still remain to be destroyed. Mexican authorities have also assure United States officials that movement of all dangerous products from the infected region is absolutely prohibited.

